

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 are rejected in view of AYERS (U.S. Patent 6,353,924) and MANN (U.S. Patent 6,009,270). The independent claims are amended to more fully distinguish over the prior art of record.

Independent claim 1 is amended to refer to “user trace write commands”, instead of the less descriptive term “user trace data commands”. The claim is further amended to recite that “each said user trace write command [is] a standard write command without trace code information identifying the type of data to be traced.” As indicated in paragraph [1148] of the specification, this feature is advantageous because it “enables a program to effectively trace itself without interactive user commands.”

The amendments to claim 1 fully distinguish over MANN. In MANN, trace data is always accompanied by a trace code (see, e.g., column 13 of MANN, which specifies a trace code (TCODE) and trace data (TDATA)). Amended independent claim 1 specifies that such a code does not exist in the claimed invention and is therefore outside the scope of MANN. MANN does not show or suggest a user trace write command that is a standard write command without trace code information identifying the type of data to be traced.

AYERS also fails to show or suggest the limitations of amended claim 1. The Examiner acknowledges that “AYERS doesn’t expressly disclose wherein each said user data command indicating a selection by a user of user-defined trace data to be written into said user trace data register.” AYERS does not relate to user-defined trace data. Rather, AYERS relates to the automatic (machine implemented) instrumentation of code, preferably at the binary level (Column 4, Line 28). AYERS’ automated approach does not show or suggest applicant’s use of “user trace write commands”. There are no “user trace write commands” in AYERS.

Further, AYERS does not teach or suggest “user trace write commands indicating a selection by a user of user-defined trace data to be written into said user trace data register.” The instrumentation code of AYERS indicates the sequence of execution of a

block but does not permit a user to define the type of trace data to be traced. In particular, column 8, lines 10-25, which was cited by the Examiner, describes writing block identifiers in register 413 from which the sequence record can be reconstructed. However, the block identifiers of AYERS provide only one type of information, namely the identity of a block. There is no teaching or suggestion in AYERS to utilize the instrumentation code to trace user-defined trace information. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that the instrumentation code of AYERS does not permit a user to make a selection of user-defined trace data to be written into a user trace data register.

In view of the foregoing, independent claim 1 should be in a condition for allowance. Claims 2-7 are dependent upon claim 1 and therefore should also be in a condition for allowance. Claim 8 is amended to include limitations of the type described in connection with claim 1. Therefore, claim 8 and its dependent claims 9-14 should also be in a condition for allowance. Claim 15 is also amended to include limitations of the type described in connection with claim 1. Claim 16 is similarly amended. Thus, claims 15 and 16 and dependent claim 17 should be in a condition for allowance. Finally, claim 18 is amended to include limitations of the type described in connection with claim 1, so this claim should also be in a condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned if there are any residual issues that can be resolved through a telephone call.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any appropriate fees to Deposit Account No. 03-3117.

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